

**SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY
COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**

June 6, 2014

The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University was held Friday, June 6, 2014, in room 321 of the Robert M. Smith Student Center. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Mr. Robert S. Taylor, Esq., chairperson.

Recording of Attendance

Trustees present: Mr. Tom Breth, Mr. Matt Lautman, Mr. Jeff Smith, Ms. Laura Ordaz, Commissioner William McCarrier, Dr. Dennis Murray, Senator Mary Jo White, Mr. Robert Taylor, Ms. Suzanne Vessella

Trustees absent: Dr. Robert Marcus, Mr. Matt Shaner

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Ms. Suzanne Vessella moved, second by Dr. Dennis Murray, approval of the business meeting agenda, Friday, June 6, 2014. Motion carried unanimously. **(TAB 16) (Appendix A)**

Approval of Minutes

Mr. McCarrier moved, seconded by Mr. Lautman, approval of the Friday, March 28, 2014 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. **(TAB 16)**

Public Comments

Chairman Taylor welcomed public comments from the audience.

Miss Katie Hill, president, Student Government Association, Inc.

Thank you Chairperson Taylor

As Mr. Taylor stated, my name is Katie Hill and I am the SGA president for the upcoming school year. I have just finished my term as President of the Green & White Society and I am looking forward to utilizing the skills I obtained from that position to continue to better serve the students.

I am so glad all of you are on campus and I thank you for your service. I was able to share some of SGA's goals for the upcoming year with the Student Affairs Committee yesterday. I am looking forward to a productive year in SGA. We recently had 11 senate members travel to San Antonio on a service trip to volunteer in inner city schools and to plan for the fall. It was a rewarding experience where we established camaraderie and were able to set standards for the fall.

I am looking forward to forging a strong and working relationship with all of you and I am hopeful that our voice matters to all of you as we move forward in our relationship.

I realize that not all situations will be positive in terms of challenges for students, but I am hopeful that these challenging moments will be communicated thoroughly and I hope that I can continue to gain your respect as I represent the student body to the best of my ability

I am excited to give you a brief update at your meetings and be in communication with all of you throughout the year. I really appreciate the time you allow me to speak and share updates from the student body. Thank you.

Video Presentation – Astronomy and SRU in honor of 125th Anniversary

President Norton introduced the astronomy video developed by Devan Lindey, creative director, script director and lead researcher. Devan is a history major from Prospect, PA. Joining Devan in the audience for the video presentation is Dr. Krishna Mukherjee, assistant professor, Physics and Pre-Engineering, who provided oversight and guidance to Devan and a team of students in completing the video project.

PRESENTATIONS

Student Commendations:

Trustee Matt Lautman presented the following student commendations on behalf of Council:

Lauren Coggins, senior therapeutic recreation major and a member of SRU's women's tennis team, in recognition of your selection as the first SRU student athlete to have been honored with the prestigious NCAA Division II Arthur Ashe, Jr. National Leadership and Sportsmanship Award presented by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, and for having brought great honor to your alma mater through your scholastic, extracurricular and athletic accomplishments. **(Appendix I)**

Matt Meredith, '92 SRU alum, head women's tennis coach, accepted the award on behalf of Lauren.

David Reinhardt, junior exercise science and 3+3 physical therapy major and a member of SRU men's track and field team, in recognition of your outstanding achievement in capturing the NCAA Division II National Championship in the javelin with a throw of 68.83 meters, earning your first All-America honor, being named the PSAC men's field athlete of the year, and for having brought great honor to the University through your athletic accomplishments. **(Appendix J)**

Joining David in the audience was John Papa, '79 SRU alum, head track and field coach.

Administrator Commendations:

Trustee Tom Breth presented Ms. Molly Mercer, assistant vice president for Finance, with a commendation of service for her outstanding leadership to the institution as the Interim Vice President for Finance and Administrative Affairs. **(Appendix K)**

Trustee Dennis Murray presented Dr. Robert Watson with a commendation of service for his outstanding leadership to the institution as the Interim Vice President for Student Affairs. **(Appendix L)**

Miss Katie Hill, president, Student Government Association, Inc., requested permission to return to the podium and provide remarks in honor of Dr. Watson's service to Slippery Rock University. Her message follows:

Gregarious, inspirational, da bomb, eloquent, classic, passionate, motivational, supportive, charismatic, driven, suave, respectable, sophisticated, honorable, elk slaying, a legend, articulate, a weeladdie, approachable, friendly, caring, knowledgeable, majestic, dedicated, unforgettable, humble, supportive, and the grandpa you wish that you had.

Many words could be used to describe a man that truly has made an impact on the lives of the students at Slippery Rock. The words I just read, weren't my own, but were from students that have interacted with Dr. Watson over the past year. I asked for their opinions because I knew I couldn't describe him alone.

When I was told that I would be making a few short comments about Dr. Watson, I had a variety of responses from different people. Some were saying don't cry when you read this, others were saying good luck that isn't going to be easy, and then a few were saying you will do a great job. I knew that I had a tough path in front of me. How could I write a few short comments about a man who has changed my life and the lives of many others?

When I found out a year ago that Dr. Watson was going to be the interim Vice President of Student Affairs I did not really know what that entailed. I heard he was a great man and that he loved Slippery Rock.

Looking back, I didn't know how much one man could bleed Green & White. His knowledge and love for Slippery Rock is immeasurable. I thought that I had school spirit and knew a few things about Slippery Rock, but I am nowhere near the stature of this man. He is rich in history and tradition. He has a passion for this institution like no one else on earth.

I have had the opportunity to travel with him, sit in on meetings with him, learn from him, engage in conversation with him, and be mentored by him. I do not take any of these times for granted and I know that other students will agree.

Dr. Watson has been one of the biggest cheerleaders. He would sit and participate in SGA meetings until 11pm after he woke up at 6am to be at the arc for a workout. He would invest in students while, teaching them about the history of SRU and the importance of being connected to their roots. He attended plays and concerts, dinners, and banquets. Where the students were Dr. Watson was too.

Dr. Watson didn't make this an 8-5 job; he made it a lifestyle. He allowed himself to be completely immersed in the culture and lives of students at SRU and was here to serve the students to his maximum capacity. Dr. Watson made the students his number one concern each day when he stepped in the office door, (even though, all of us know, he wasn't in the office for long before he was on the move).

He was noticed and he made himself present, never looking tired or worn out. He supported students both in and outside the classroom and allowed students the opportunity to think, make mistakes, and then learn from those mistakes, while remaining supportive and optimistic. He understands the importance of living in the moment and making a person feel that they have his undivided attention for the time he is with them. Dr. Watson didn't just care about the students' life at Slippery Rock; he took the time to get to know students on a personal level and sought their interest and their hopes.

I know that the relationship I have with Dr. Watson is just beginning. Dr. Watson has inspired me to do what I love and make sure that I remain true to my priorities and myself.

I know that Dr. Watson was brought back here for a special reason this past year. It is by no mistake that he was chosen to serve in this role and it just happened to land on Slippery Rock's 125th birthday.

I could not have asked for a better gregarious, inspirational, passionate and eloquent Interim VP of Student Affairs. On behalf of the students I would like to say THANK YOU Dr. Watson! We will miss you!

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Cheryl J. Norton provided remarks (**Appendix B**)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Governance Committee (Agenda, Appendix C)

Mr. Tom Breth, chair, provided the following report:

The Governance Committee met yesterday and discussed three specific items of interest:

- 1) The meeting dates were approved by the Governance Committee for 2014-2015:
 - September 25 & 26, 2014
 - December 4 & 5, 2014
 - March 19 & 20, 2015
 - June 4 & 5, 2015

- 2) The nominating committee introduced the slate of officers for 2014-2015
 - Tom Breth, chair
 - Senator Mary Jo White, vice-chair
 - Matt Lautman, secretary

- 3) COT Chair Bob Taylor called for an action item to be added to the meeting agenda. This is to create an ad-hoc committee on performing arts with Matt Shaner serving as chair along with Suzanne Vessella and Bob Taylor serving on the committee.

Academic Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix D)

Dr. Dennis Murray, chair, provided the following report:

We have one action item that was approved to move forward for consideration by the full Council. To keep in line with PASSHE system's mission to increase the intellectual wealth of the Commonwealth, to prepare students for personal and professional success in their lives, and to transform the learning environment, SRU is proposing a new Master of Education in Instructional Technology for Online Education to enhance educator skills and address the needs of students entering the field as well as

exiting teachers who are looking to develop their skill set in online learning. The program is designed to complement the current Letter of Completion in Teaching Online for students who want to complete the full degree.

Provost Philip Way and Dr. Keith Dils, dean, College of Education, introduced and discussed the M.Ed. proposal with Council. Also attending the committee meeting was Dr. John Zeigler, Associate Provost for Information and Administrative Technology Services, who provided an overview of technology services, discussed the purposes and uses of the student technology fee, and shared goals of the department moving forward.

Finance and Audit Committee (Agenda, Appendix E)

Ms. Suzanne Vessella chairs the Finance and Audit Committee. The committee met this morning to review items for action and information. In addition to the routine items, there were a number of presenters:

- 1) President Norton provided an in-depth presentation on the Performing Arts Center project.
- 2) David M. Jacobson, CPA Principal, CliftonLarsenAllen LLP, presented the audit plan.
- 3) Dr. Peter Garland, Executive Vice Chancellor, PASSHE, presented the topic, Differential Tuition Overview
- 4) Ms. Molly Mercer, assistant vice president, Finance, provided a budget update.

President Norton introduced and welcomed Dr. Amir Mohammadi, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Affairs.

Senator Mary Jo White moved, seconded by Dr. Murray, committee approval of the contracts, fixed assets, and service and supply purchase orders.

Student Affairs Committee (Agenda, Appendix F)

Mr. Matt Lautman chairs the Student Affairs Committee. A number of information items were discussed at the committee meeting yesterday. No items were brought forward for committee action.

Items discussed:

- 1) Dr. Watson presented the reorganization of the Student Government Association.
- 2) Student Government President Ms. Katie Hill presented SGA goals for the coming year.
- 3) Dr. Watson and Ms. Deb Pincek, assistant to the Vice President, Student Affairs, presented housing updates.
- 4) Dr. Watson provided a summary of the past year, including restructuring of the SGA Governance Board, introduction of new business manager, Ms. Wendy Leiterra, and a brief recap of the SGA Memo of Understanding.
- 5) Dr. John Bonando, Ms. Deb Pincek, and Mr. Brad Kovaleski provided a summary of the past year and shared goals for the upcoming academic year.

University Advancement Committee (Agenda, Appendix G)

Mr. Matt Shaner chairs the University Advancement Committee. In his absence, Ms. Barbara Ender, Vice President for University Advancement shared the following report:

The University Advancement Committee met yesterday afternoon. Barbara Ender, Samantha Swift and Ed Bucha provided updates for the committee. The following topics were discussed:

The Through the Looking Glass Gala, which was held May 31st, was a great evening for the 230 Guests who attended. Proceeds from the event totaled \$125,000.

Total gift income as of May 30, 2014, was \$2,972,466 million reflecting an increase of 29% over the same period last year.

Major Gift Officers are engaged in several 125th Anniversary fundraising initiatives:

- The 125th Anniversary Challenge goal of \$1.25 million has been exceeded.
- To date \$1.6 million in gifts and commitments have been received.
- There are 302 members of the new Founders' Society - our leadership annual giving society of \$1,000 or greater.
- The 1889 Society, which recognizes planned gifts, has commitments from 32 donors totaling \$2.2 million.
- The student philanthropy efforts have raised more than \$3,000 since the January 1st kickoff of the **1...2...Give Me 5!** campaign.

Ed reviewed the Slippery Rock University Foundation, Inc. Balance Sheet Summary, Income and Expense Summary and the Investment Summary.

The Alumni Engagement Office has been actively involved coordinating alumni events and receptions. Homecoming and Reunion Weekend will be September 27th – 28th, and The Battle in the Big House, SRU vs. Mercyhurst is October 17th – 18th.

The very successful 2013-14 Performing Arts Series concluded on May 4th with a special café style concert by The Jammin' Divas. The 2014-15 series brochures were distributed.

Executive Session (Agenda, Appendix H)

Council met this morning in executive session with President Norton.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Contracts (TAB 7)

Senator White moved, seconded by Dr. Murray approval of the Contracts. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix M)

Fixed Assets (TAB 8)

Commissioner McCarrier moved, seconded by Senator White approval of Fixed Assets. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix N)

Service and Supply Purchase Orders (TAB 9)

Mr. Breth moved, seconded by Ms. Vessella, approval of the Service and Supply Purchase Orders. Motion carried unanimously. (Appendix O)

Ad Hoc Committee on Performing Arts Center Project (Refer to Agenda)

Ms. Vessella moved, seconded by Dr. Murray, approval of an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of three trustees to review the Performing Arts Center project and make recommendations. Matt Shaner will serve as chair with Suzanne Vessella and Robert Taylor serving as committee members.

Master of Education in Instructional Technology for Online Education (TAB 10)

The Council of Trustees of Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania approves the Master of Education in Instructional Technology for Online Education to move forward to the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education for final approval.

Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Senator White, motion carried unanimously. (Appendix P)

Council of Trustees – Election of Officers (refer to Agenda)

The nominating committee announced the slate of officers for 2014-2015:

Mr. Tom Breth – Chair
 Senator Mary Jo White – Vice-Chair
 Mr. Matt Lautman – Secretary

Mr. Taylor moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, approval of the slate of officers. Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Next Meeting Date

September 25 & 26, 2014

Meeting Dates 2014-2015

December 4 & 5, 2014
 March 19 & 20, 2015
 June 4 & 5, 2015

Proposed Reorganization SRU Student Government Association, Inc. (TAB 11) (Appendix Q)

Personnel Items (TAB 15) (Appendix R)

Monthly Financial Report (TAB 14) (Appendix S)

Facilities and Planning Active Project List (Cabinet Report) (TAB 12) (Appendix T)

2014 Summer Project Schedule (TAB 13) (Appendix U)

Divisional Reports (TAB 17) (Appendix V)

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Bill McCarrier –It is always an uplifting experience to be on campus. This is a great University and congratulations to the fine leadership. The enthusiasm here is contagious and I am proud to be a member of the SRU Council of Trustees.

Senator Mary Jo White – Thank you, Bob Taylor, for your leadership and for your guidance in working with us as new members of council. It is not an easy drive back and forth across the state, but your commitment to the university and to our students is evident in your actions. It is a pleasure to be here.

Dennis Murray – Congratulations to the faculty and administration, to the entire SRU family and to President Norton for your leadership. The recognition of awards today was very impressive. It is a privilege serving as a trustee.

Laura Ordaz –Thank you for sharing the astronomy presentation today and congratulations to the award winners. There are always great things happening on campus.

Tom Breth –Congratulations Dr. Watson, I hope your second retirement is as good as your first. I am privileged and humbled to serve as the new chair of our council, and I hope I can live up to the expectation. Thank you, Bob Taylor, for your fine leadership and support to the council and for being a great friend to me.

Jeff Smith –I so enjoy being here and seeing the amazing things happening on campus. Though we have challenges before us, it is always so impressive the way in which everybody works together and promotes a winning attitude that we will move ahead and get things done. People want to be with winners and this is a great University and a winning team. Congratulations to everybody for the incredible work you do.

Suzanne Vessella –Congratulations Bob Watson, enjoy your second retirement.

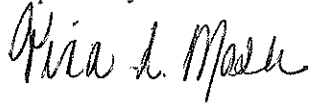
Matt Lautman – Chairman Taylor, thank you for your leadership, thank you personally for your guidance and support in helping me to become acclimated to the council. Dr. Watson, thank you first for your service to the university, but also for this past year opening your door to me for face-to-face meetings, answering the many phone calls and providing such guidance and insight that was so incredibly helpful. Also, congratulations to everyone involved in the 125th Gala last week. Thanks to the Foundation group, the University community, the Slippery Rock community and all those who helped with the planning – it was a very fun event.

Bob Taylor –Thank you to Dr. Norton and to the administration for your leadership. Also, thanks to the organizers and the many people involved in commencement. Graduation at SRU is an emotional and memorable time for our students and their families. A lot of hard work goes into preparing for the event and those efforts are very much appreciated. Special thanks to Dr. Amanda Yale and her team for the

incredible work you have done with enrollment management. To our friend, Dr. Watson, I will miss you personally for your guidance and the incredible work you have done in providing guidance and leadership to the Student Affairs Division and to our students. And, to our Council of Trustees – this has been a year of transition and I am so delighted with the new leadership team, thank you to my colleagues.

With no further business, the Friday, June 6, 2014 Council of Trustees meeting at Slippery Rock University adjourned at 2:45 p.m. Dr. Murray moved, seconded by Ms. Vessella, a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tina L. Moser".

Tina L. Moser, Administrative Liaison to the SRU Council of Trustees